



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: I am a manager of the RT department at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services.

Does AB 1087 have any effect on RTs drawing arterial bloods? Can RTs that are certified to draw arterials by our departments draw venous bloods without being affected by AB 1087? In other words, does having an R.C.P. license exempt use from the phlebotomy regulations entirely?

Response: AB 1087 changed the law by permitting certified phlebotomy technicians to draw blood under the "general supervision" of physicians, registered nurses or other designated licensed persons. It does not impact the ability of respiratory therapists to draw blood. Business and Professions Code Section 1242.6(c) independently gives licensed respiratory therapists that authority. It provides that:

Any respiratory care practitioner certified under the provisions of [the Respiratory Care Practice Act] may perform arterial puncture, venipuncture, or skin puncture for the purposes of withdrawing blood or for test purposes upon authorization from any licensed physician and surgeon.

Reference # 2004-C-08